MAY/JUNE 1973
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California GARDEN

THE ANONYMOUS ALOE

KATIE MCREYNOLDS

ALOES MAY BE too anonymous for the garden-variety landscaper. They should be grown by the jillion in our sunny, warm climate, but they are conspicuous by their absence. They come in many shapes, sizes and colours, and the flower spikes are as varied, ranging from singles to clusters of six to twelve and in colour from white through yellow, orange, orange-red to red. The spikes flower over a long period of time and many are dramatic later in dried arrangements. There are so many species (more than 200) it is possible to have almost continuous bloom throughout the year, and the foliage is always decorative. They hybridize spontaneously, grow easily from seed and naturalize generously. They are at home on hillsides, in rock gardens, in containers both indoors and out. Few genera are so versatile. Best of all for many California gardeners, once planted correctly they thrive on neglect and are unusually free from pests.

Kate Sessions introduced them in Balboa Park many moons ago, and William Hertrich of Huntington Gardens used them in a stunning parkway planting in San Marino about the same time. Professional landscapers find them most satisfactory, and they are conspicuous around public buildings and parks world-wide—except those areas subject to killing frosts.

Then why the scarcity in home gardens? Could it be because they have NO NAMES? Botanical names, of course, but common names? No! *Aloe succotrina* is hard to remember, spell and pronounce, especially since it is not native to the island of Socotra, nor is it even the source of the drug, Socotrine Aloes, which comes from *Aloe perryi*, itself a native of South Africa. Confused enough? But, it is a lovely plant with blue-green, gracefully curved leaves, slightly spotted and white marginal prickles and racemes of light red flowers. If it were called "Grecian Goddess", it might be as commonplace as the Bird of Paradise.

On the other hand, *Aloe vera* (common name True Aloe) is well known by its botanical name because of an overwhelming advertising campaign pushing cosmetics using Barbados aloes, produced in the West Indies, which were native to the Mediterranean region. The majority of women are convinced the plant is named for an otherwise obscure Helena Rubenstein, ignoring the plant itself and the give-away translation of its common name. Yet, no one with an aloe garden would be without this thick-leafed basal-rosette and its nodding yellow flowers terminating the scapes in dense racemes.

Which is the most commonly cultivated and sought-after aloe? Partridge Breast, *Aloe variegata*. It is a charming small rosette, triangular in shape, that suckers freely and forms dense groups. The five inch leaves are keeled with wavy, transverse white-spotted bands—hense its descriptive name. It is a winter bloomer with red flowers in loose racemes. It needs VERY sandy soil, well drained and is an excellent pot plant where watering can be controlled carefully. Rotting is a problem if water stands at the base of the leaves, so it is touchier than most in the garden. Still, it has a name people can remember.

For the adventuresome few, who will painstakingly learn a new language or casually refer to any and all as just "aloes", a few notes on culture. They like a fairly rich, porous soil with good drainage, so if you are cursed with adobe, add sand, leaf mold and bone meal generously. Coming from South Africa, as most of them do, they like sun and must have it to bloom. Do not plant them with stems in the ground, only the roots, and do not allow the base of the rosettes of leaves to touch the ground. Then, let nature take its course.

For inspiration and to find out what you have been missing, visit the aloe garden in Balboa Park and tour Quail Gardens in Encinitas. You can also find them "in the wild" on the hill above Scripps' Biological Grade in La Jolla. After that, you will be an addict and should rush for the authoritative two volume set by G. W. Reynolds of Johannesburg, S. Africa.

ALOE HISTORY

JOHN E. MILLER

OVER 4,000 years ago, the value of aloe was so great that the wealth of some ancient kings was expressed in "Aloe". Alexander the Great used aloe to refresh his skin; his soldiers used aloe to relieve the rigors of the desert.

The Bible refers to aloe as "bitter aloe", and indicates that it was used in burials. (Aloe makes a very good deodorant—and in those days of prolonged ceremonies, it was particularly useful for that purpose!)

In the 1500s, the apothecaries of the day sent Portuguese mariners on expeditions to discover new lands where new aloes could be obtained. They believed that exotic aloes would cure the dreaded bubonic plague, the Black Death.

According to Indian Legend, that was repeated to explorers from Europe, any person who drank the bitter water from a certain spring in Florida would soon regain youth. Aloes grew most abundantly all around that spring and quite probably caused the bitter flavor—even if they did not work the miracle of rejuvenation.

During the World War II era, the U. S. Government bought up a large quantity of aloe plants for a "classified" purpose. When wartime secrets were declassified, we learned that an aloe poltice was the most effective available medication for radiation burns then known.

Today, the aloe still serves us—in a function just as valid as any in past history: We now grow the aloe as an attractive accent plant which helps to beautify our environment.

****

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from above.
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for life!

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CALIFORNIA GARDEN

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FLORAL EVENTS

JUNE 19 San Diego Floral Association's monthly meeting will be the annual pot-luck dinner. It will be held in Casa Del Prado's 101 at 6:30 P. M. The program will feature favorite selections of the Starlite Opera by artists: Linda McNeely, Leo Willis, accompanied by Kathy Skidmore. This meeting will present the new officers; the installation will follow.

JUNE 25 Mrs. John Kirkpatrick's Flower Arranging Class; room 101, Casa Del Prado; 10–12 A.M.

FLORAL EXHIBITS

JUNE 3 San Diego Fuchsia Society will hold an "Open House" in Casa Del Prado's room 101. This exhibit is free to the public from 11 A. M. to 5:30 P. M.

JUNE 23 & 24 The Alpha Literary and Improvement Club of Lompoc, California will have its 51st Annual Flower Show; this year's theme is "Heroes of the West". The city of Lompoc will also hold its annual Flower Festival which includes parade, carnival, dancing, art exhibits and a general feeling of hospitality of the West.

JUNE 22–JULY 4 Come to the fair. This year's Southern California Exposition at Del Mar promises to be bigger and better than past years.

JULY 15 The Convair Garden Club will have a dahlia show in room 101 of Casa Del Prado. This will be a judged show open to the public from 1–5:30 P. M.

JULY 22 The San Diego Dahlia Society will have its annual specimen show in room 101 of Casa Del Prado. This judged show will be open from 1–5:30 P. M.

JULY 28–29 The A. D. Robinson Branch of the American Begonia Society will present a large judged show in Casa Del Prado's room 101. Sat. 1–5:30 P.M.; Sun. 11 A.M. to 5 P.M.

TOURS

JUNE 9 Trip to Ensenada, Baja California; $10.50 fee; depart La Jolla 8:30 A.M. and Balboa Park 9 A.M.

JULY 14 Leave Balboa Park at 8:30 A.M. and La Jolla at 9 A.M. for Newport Beach and a boat tour of Balboa Island. $10.

THE COVER

"*Aloe aborescens* and Hummingbirds" is from a collection of paintings donated to San Diego Floral by Kathleen Crawford. Mrs. Crawford's paintings have achieved national recognition and have been widely shown. Perhaps you saw her exhibit of California native flowers in the San Diego Natural History Museum during the summer of 1971. Among other museums where her paintings have been displayed are the Los Angeles Natural History Museum and the Santa Barbara Natural History Museum.

KEEPING AHEAD OF THE JONESES

Dr. Philip Corliss, M.D.

ALTHOUGH THE iris or hemerocallis fancier may pay one hundred dollars or more for new plant introductions, you can fill your garden with the newest annual flowers for but a few pennies more than you would pay for older varieties. Bedding plants of novelties are available at most nurseries and seed packets cost less than one dollar. The new varieties excel in color, size, habit and other qualities. I will describe a few of the new ones to give you a hint of the fun and excitement you may expect from them:

PETUNIAS: A distinctly new color is available this year in the single grandiflora petunia BURGUNDY which is aptly named. In testing it in my own garden, I found it a wonderful companion for the recent scarlet CANDY APPLE and the multiflora pink petunias. If you like doubles, you will have masses of color with SALMON BOUQUET, my favorite of the new doubles.

DIANTHUS: Two new varieties of dianthus (pinks) that produce an incredible amount of bloom are the SNOWFLAKE and ORCHID LACE. Easy to grow in any soil, they give you a choice of long bloom or novel flower form.

MARIGOLD: In addition to the color they supply, every garden should have marigolds, because their roots repel soil insects. This year you may try RED DIMENSION, which has red flowers well over three inches in diameter—the largest red-flowered marigold to date; a credit to the garden.

ZINNIAS: There are many new zinnias to try—from dwarf to giant. If you like them not too leggy and full of flowers good for cutting, try PETER PAN in pink, plum, or (new for '73) scarlet. I am still partial to the bizarre-colored ones such as WHIRLIGIG.

GERANIUM: The new SPRINTER is listed as an annual, but in my garden it is a vigorous perennial. The color is a bright red on the orange side, and it is an early and amazingly constant bloomer. Incidently, I find that geraniums, and many other types of plants and bulbs, flourish when planted in cement blocks. Don't worry about their suffering from a lack of root space; I have LADY WASHINGTONs that grow to ten feet in diameter from the hole of one cement building block. Do try edging your paths or garden beds with cement blocks. You will find they have many advantages.

Not usually available from nurseries, but easily grown from seed and now offered in improved strains, are such dependable and always admired flowers as: COLLARETTE DAHLIAS; SCHIZANTHUS (Butterfly Flower or Poor Man's Orchid); SALPIGLOSSIS (Painted Tongue or Velvet Flower); and ANNUAL STATICE. There are many other choices and shopping in the modern seed catalogs can greatly enrich your garden enjoyment.

Dianthus ORCHID LACE (Park Seed Co. photo)

Marigold RED DIMENSION (Park Seed Co. photo)

NEW HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

MARGARET EDDY FLEMING

ON NOVEMBER 12, 1970, at a celebration announcing that the Torrey Pines Extension drive had been a success and that 3,000 rare trees on about 260 acres of land just north of the Torrey Pines State Park Reserve had been saved by a successful fund drive, Dr. Thomas W. Whitaker, president of the Torrey Pines Association, said, ". . .In my opinion the key to this operation has been the sustained faith and determination of Margaret Eddy Fleming. Without her courage and foresight it is doubtful whether we would be here to celebrate the successful termination of one aspect of this campaign."

The San Diego Floral Association honors this artist and conservationist, affectionately called "Mrs. Torrey Pines" by her friends, with an Honorary Life Membership given "to a person who has made outstanding contributions or is otherwise deemed worthy of the honor."

For twenty-nine years the Flemings lived on the State Reserve managing it and protecting the rare trees. She felt the trees could best be described in etchings. These etchings, 28–30 of them, have been exhibited at the La Jolla Museum of Art and other leading museums throughout the country. The Torrey Pines Association uses one of these (cover, Calif. Garden, March/April, 1971) as its exclusive symbol.

Her late husband, Guy, also an Honorary Life Member of Floral, said ". . .discover for yourself the spell that is cast upon those who visit this last resting of a vanishing forest." Margaret Eddy Fleming echoes her husband in his statement. "You can have the added pleasure of knowing that with your cooperation this reserve will continue in its primitive beauty to be admired by all who visit it." ––Grace T. Brophy––

ETTA SCHWIEDER

ALWAYS A QUIET retiring person, Etta Schwieder has found her pleasure in her friends and the art, music and garden worlds around her.

She came to San Diego from Minnesota in 1913 with her sister and aunt. When she lived in Mission Hills, she developed a lovely garden which led her to join the Floral Association about 1926, at the time Mary A. Greer was president. In that early era all the members had a good time together putting on their Spring and Fall flower shows which were the only ones in San Diego before the plant societies took over. At that time, Miss Schwieder was in charge of the flower arrangements. At first the Floral Association met in private homes but was given the sole use of its building in the park after the Second Exposition. They had to vacate in order to make room for the Navy during the war in 1945, but they shared the building afterwards with other garden clubs. About then, Miss Schwieder took over the demanding job of house chairman and worked in this position for many years.

First, Etta gardened around her home; when she moved to an apartment, she surrounded it with flowers; and now, in her ninetieth year, she is raising plants on a balcony in the Imperial Towers on Sixth Avenue. From there, she walks to the important events that take place in Balboa Park. She is what might be called "garden young". The Floral Association is proud to list her as an Honorary Life Member.–––––––––Mary Alice Clark–––––––––

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SUCCULENT OF THE SEASON

NIBBY KLINEFELTER

IF YOU ENJOY an attractive multipurpose plant that can be used as a ground cover, in an arrangement, in a hanging basket, in the front border, or in a rock garden, then *Oscularia deltoides* is the plant for YOU. This charming little succulent grows about a foot high at most and is quite compact with much branching. It is a member of the widespread mesembryanthemum family, belonging to the shrubby group. Native to Cape Province, it is comfortably at home in San Diego.

Gray-green in color (almost acquamarine to my eye), the plump little leaves are triangular and toothed on all three tips. The leaves are approximately ¼ of an inch wide and ¾ of an inch long.

The stems are rosy purplish-red and the "teeth" are pinpoints of the same color. Appearing in May and June, the pinkish-lavender, dime-sized flowers almost cover the leaves in lavish abandon. While they resemble a daisy or an aster, they are not composites but single flowers.

The seeds are in a five sided capsule equipped with an ingenious system of valves regulating their release, an unusual feature shared by all the mesembryanthemum family. In their native land, they may go two or three years between rains, so their seeds are kept ready until there is sufficient moisture to germinate. The pods are round and make a beautiful design when soaked in water long enough to open.

If there is a common name for *Oscularia deltoides*, I am not aware of it, but why not use the botanical name since it is such a lovely rhythmical sound: os-keu-LAY ri ah del-to-I-dez. Those of you talented in imagery can no doubt "see the mouth" that it was named for; *oscularia* derived from the Latin *osculum*, a small mouth, in allusion to the toothing which occurs in most species; *deltoides* refers to the triangular shape of the leaves

There is also a variety of *Oscularia deltoides*, var. *muricata* which is very dwarf and dense with shorter smaller leaves that are more heavily toothed. (muricata means roughened with hard points) *Oscularia caulescens* is taller, not so compact, and the smoother leaves have fewer teeth.

Are you ready for more virtues? No special cultural requirements for this plant—too rich a soil and too much water are not to its liking. Best grown in full sun, but it will take light shade. Multiplying readily, it can also be ripped out with ease. It sheds its flowers with more grace than many of the other mesembryanthemums.

Pinch it back for even more compactness, then plant the pinchings for they root quickly and easily. It is truly a pleasure giving plant that can be shared with your gardening friends.

Oh yes, this tender succulent does have one drawback. It is not hardy to frost, but even that can be overcome by rooting cuttings to grow on a sunny windowsill.

Sketch by Ben Klinefelter (17 years)

LET'S TALK ABOUT YOUR CYMBIDIUMS

BEN HARDY, president
San Diego Orchid Society

BY NOW YOU KNOW whether you did the right things at the right time to get the maximum display of flowers this season. As evidenced by the tremendous display at the 27th Annual San Diego Orchid Show, this is the peak of the blooming season. If you are one of the fortunate ones that had good to excellent results, there is no need for you to read on. What is going to be attempted here is to give some guidelines so that next year the ones who did not have a good crop of cymbidium blooms can hope to luxuriate in a mass of orchid blooms next blooming season.

From the numerous people I talked with at the orchid show, I confirmed my earlier observation that this past blooming season was a poor one. I tend to put some of the blame on the weather conditions of the past months, but some of it can quite possibly be put on growing techniques.

To start with, repotting time is now approaching. After the plants have finished blooming (they should be by June), those plants which are getting too big for their containers, or which have potting mixture that has broken down, should be repotted. Remember when repotting to use a container large enough for at least two, and preferably three, years growth before repotting is again mandatory. After they are settled in the pot from repotting, (and your other plants that did not need repotting) they are ready to put on their new growth, and it is time to change their growing conditions. Remove your shading! Whether it be a saran covering over the hot house, paint on the glass, or an extra layer of saran over the shade house, get rid of it! (If you are using saran as your basic cover, it should never be more than the 55% grade.) To promote the maximum amount of growth, you must give them very high light intensity. Even if the foliage gets quite yellow, give them as much light as you can without burning them. By summer's end, they will probably look very yellow, but when the days get shorter towards fall, and you start to add the additional shading the leaves will green up considerably. Remember when the spikes start to show it is time to start increasing the shade. With this drastic increase of higher summer light intensity your plants will need much more water for good growth. They should be thoroughly drenched two or three times a week. Remember, if your cymbidium plants are doing well and are in good health, you can not over water them during the growing season. This, of course, is contingent on the fact that the potting mixture is in good condition and that the water drains right on through. Stagnation and sogginess around the roots will cause them to rot off and stop the growth.

High temperatures are required at this time also. Daytime temperatures in the high 80's and 90's with lots of sunshine, water and food will develop those good strong growths to assure you of a better crop of blooms next season. With all this light and water your plants will need and use a lot of food. A feeding program of a well balanced, high nitrogen fertilizer (one or two teaspoons to a gallon of water) every ten days or two weeks is mandatory. Also as a supplement to this, a good dry feed top dressing is recommended. This basically consists of slow release nitrogen organic compounds such as hoof and horn or blood meal with supplements of phosphate, potash and some trace elements. A generous handful of this, put on the surface of the potting mix of each plant during late spring, mid summer and early fall will provide an excellent supplemental feeding.

Around the first of August, you must change from a high nitrogen fertilizer to a low nitrogen/high phosophorus, potassium fertilizer. Maintain the high light intensity and watering program. About this time of the year a major cultural change takes place.

This is caused by the temperature change between night and day. A twenty to twenty-five degree temperature difference between night and day helps promote spike initiation. Cymbidium flower spikes are initiated in the August/September/October segment of the calendar. Your new growths should be about one third developed and starting to swell at the bases. If everything has gone according to Hoyle, the basal leaf bracts on the new growths will start to split, and the flower spikes will begin to show. By the end of the year, all spikes should have shown, if your plants are going to flower the coming winter and spring.

Once the flower spikes have shown up, you should start reducing the light intensity. Repaint the glass on the greenhouse, put the saran netting back on, double the layer on your lean-to, or cover your lath house. Now is a good time to be sure the slug and snail bait is out and that you have a good spraying program to take care of the boring and flower destroying insects. Nothing is more disheartening than to go out and find a slug has chewed on your fine flower spike or a weevil has bored his way inside and played general havoc with your blooms. Also protect them from the rain and—by all means that sometime menace—hail, that manages to sneak into our area every once in a while.

If they are grown out of doors, they will stand down to thirty degrees and even a few degrees of frost. (I have had twenty-three degree frost with no serious harm.) If they are grown in a greenhouse, the night temperature should be fifty degrees. Remember, protect your plants from too much light and keep the atmosphere cool, airy and have circulation.

By Christmas time, the early blooms will be open, and you will surely know what your results are going to be at this time. I hope that you may have found some useful ideas to produce a bountiful crop of cymbidium spikes next time around.

NEW HANDBOOK "ROSES ARE FOR YOU" AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

This new handbook covering the many uses for roses, clearly illustrated in a long series of pen drawings by Henry Aul, has just come off the press and is now available to anyone for the asking.

Besides the seven pages of sketches covering the uses of roses, is included a description of the classes of roses, directions for cutting rose blooms, the meaning of disbudding, growing of exhibition roses, and a listing of the 112 AARS accredited Public Rose Gardens where plants of the AARS winners may be seen in bloom long before they are offered for sale by the nurserymen and rose specialists.

Write to All-America Rose Selections, P. O. Box 218, Shenandoah, Iowa 51601 for your free copy of this 16 page book.

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Because of you, we have a big flower show and an Expo matched by few anywhere in the world. It is something to be proud of, something every resident of San Diego County must see.

Don Diego

(Tom Hernandez)

JUNE 22 — JULY 4

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EXPOSITION DEL MAR

A REVIEW OF THE 1973 BONSAI EXHIBIT

As a follow-up of the issue featuring bonsai literature and drawings, we present a random sampling of the exhibits in the San Diego Bonsai Club's Seventh Annual Exhibit which was held in the Conference Building of Balboa Park.

ABOVE left to right: *Diosma reevesii* done in the Informal Upright Style by Giles Verstraten; Neanthe Bella Palm, *Chanaedorea elegans*, from the collection of Kotsushima, Group Planting; Japanese Black Pine, *Pinus thunbergii*, Semi-cascade Style, also from the Kotsushima collection.

RIGHT: *Prunus serrulata*, Sekiyama (Kwanzan), by Chris Butler.

BELOW: *Juniperus procumbus nana*, Clinging to a Rock Style, by M. D. Gresham.

BETTY MACKINTOSH, photos

Prescription for Good Health— Create a Garden

"If you want to be happy for an hour — get drunk.
If you want to be happy for a day — get married.
If you want to be happy for a weekend — kill your pig and eat it.
But if you want to be happy all your life — be a gardener."

It doesn't take much for nature to produce her bountiful crops of plump fresh vegetables loaded with vitamins and good flavor. Even the smallest backyard — with ample sunlight and a little care — can bring rich rewards.

According to America's leading seed houses, vegetable gardening is increasing faster than any other home garden activity. People who have never gardened before are feeling the urge to clear a space to create vegetable gardens.

A desire to economize and the appeal of tasty, freshly-picked produce are the big reasons. Also, many doctors are recommending gardening for therapeutic reasons. Social workers, too, are finding that city vegetable gardens keep youngsters happy, creative and out-of-mischief.

A deeply spaded fertile soil is essential for best results, and the addition of some inexpensive soil conditioner such as peat may be necessary. If animal manure is in short supply, then a simple general purpose fertilizer bought from a local garden center can produce good results. More and more people are discovering the advantage of a compost pile. Over the space of a year the average family can produce a rich pile of it simply by using kitchen wastes, grass clippings and shredded leaves. In a small garden, pests and diseases need not be too destructive. A sharp eye will usually detect any insect pests such as aphids or beetles, and often their egg clusters can be removed by hand even before the insects themselves prove troublesome.

As few as six hybrid tomato plants started from seed and transplanted into the garden after danger of frost can produce bushels of ripe fruit shorthly after July 4 and continue cropping non-stop until fall.

Just four hybrid zucchini squash plants can yield dozens of delicious baby squash from June until frost. And the more you pick the more they'll come.

Pick the outer leaves of Oak Leaf lettuce for salads and more inner leaves will grow to replace them. Oak leaf is also the most heat-resistant lettuce, and it can be sown direct into the garden.

Beans are highly productive, and the bush beans in particular appeal to most gardeners because they require no staking. Beginner gardeners can take their pick between green-podded or yellow-podded varieties, although a purple-podded variety is not only delicious, but the troublesome bean beetle seems to avoid it.

In sweet corns, most people look for sweetness first and earliness second. There is a variety that is a popular choice among gardeners because it is twice as sweet as standard varieties, and four times as sweet 48 hours after picking. An All-America Winner called Early Xtra Sweet has exactly the same degree of sweetness, but reaches perfection 14 days earlier.

Sweet corn takes up a lot of room, and for this reason some gardeners may prefer to devote the space to other space-saving varieties of vegetables such as beets, carrots, cabbage, Swiss chard, radishes, and turnips — all of which are very easy to grow from seed.

Every vegetable garden should contain at least one herb for flavoring meals, and by far the most useful of all herbs is parsley. The seed is sometimes slow to germinate, but it takes up very little room, and provides masses of curley green leaves which add essential flavor to so many dishes.

Peppers are a worthwhile crop, and they are best treated exactly like tomatoes—starting the seed early indoors and transplanting to the garden after danger of frost. Peppers are most widely eaten in the green stage, but as they ripen they turn red. There are several varieties which turn yellow instead of red, and they add interest to summer salads.

Before choosing a vegetable variety for your garden, get to know two important characteristics about it: (1) Is it a warm-weather crop or a cool-weather crop? (2) How many days to maturity? Seed packets and catalog descriptions generally give both specifications. Peas, lettuce, radishes, cauliflower, spinach and broccoli are examples of cool weather crops. They cannot tolerate America's hot, humid summers, so they need to be started early in the spring to reach maturity before the heat turns on, or they can be planted in mid-summer to produce good results in fall.

At the other extreme are melons, tomatoes, peppers, corn, eggplant, squash and cucumbers. These are hot-weather crops, thriving and maturing when the days are hot and humid.

With a little pre-planning, it's possible to grow several crops in a year. First, plant cool-weather crops such as radish and lettuce, harvest the crop, then plant again with a fast-growing summer crop such as bush beans, summer squash or cucumbers. Finish up the season with quick maturing lettuce and radishes again.

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A HORTICULTURAL VOICE IS STILLED

ROSALIE GARCIA
in colaboration with
Dorothy Tanner & Alice Clark

ON FEBRUARY 23, 1972 one of the most enthusiastic voices in San Diego County horticulture was silenced with the passing of Clifford Gilbert Tanner of Rancho Santa Fe. He made his living as a nurseryman and grower, but his influence on customers and associates made his place unique in the county. The many letters and expressions of loss that came to his widow, Dorothy, were most revealing of the impression he made on the planting in this county. (Customers felt such a personal loss and frustration that he would no longer be able to advise them that they were stunned and wondered where to turn.) When he sold a plant or tree, he let it go as almost a part of himself, expected the best of care and a report on how it grew. His customers felt they had bought a special plant, and took it home with a kind of reverence.

When Mr. Tanner found a variety he believed in, he pushed it, kept up with it and gloried in its adaptation. A tree he sold to a woman in La Jolla grew so well that he would drive out of his way to see it.

Clifford Tanner with pink cymbidium

Always the experimenter, he encouraged planting new varieties in test locations. If they did not thrive, he crossed off that place and variety and did not recommend it.

Clifford Tanner came by his enthusiasm and belief in California by inheritance as a second generation native, having begun life on a dairy farm at Morro Bay, California on July 25, 1894. Early, he knew what he wanted to do and chose the education to fit him for a life in horticulture. After high school years at Cal-Poly, San Luis Obispo, he went on to take his Bachelor of Science degree at Oregon State University in 1917.

After graduation, he served in World War I, returning home in 1919, and became Agricultural Commissioner for San Luis Obispo County. During this period, he purchased land near Paso Robles which he planted in almonds. He held the property until shortly before his death.

In 1922, he left his job as commissioner to enter the agricultural marketing field, first in his own business, then as a fruit and vegetable buyer for Rivers Brothers in Los Angeles County where he lived and worked until 1928. His introduction to the nursery business came in this period when he worked for a time for Armstrong Nurseries in Ontario. He also married Eleanor Ahlstrom in 1922. She was a real partner in the business.

Late in 1928, he came to San Diego County and with a partner established the Badger-Tanner Nursery in Rancho Santa Fe. Its branches and activities reached into La Jolla, San Diego and south to Chula Vista.

Tanner's home was in Solano Beach until 1938 when he purchased fourteen acres of slopes and canyons in Rancho Santa Fe which included a house and avocado, lemon and sapote plantings. This became his home, experiment station and nursery until 1945

when he closed his general nursery. He spent his time for the next five years operating his groves and taking care of his wife during her illness until her death in 1947. In 1948, he married Dorothy Freeman.

When he reopened his nursery in 1950, he specialized in subtropical fruits and nuts, an enthusiasm that had been developing while he was in the general nursery business. He saw a future in the subtropicals which has not really materialized, but his enthusiasm had done much in promoting them.

In 1954, he joined with a group interested in macadamia nuts to form the California Macadamia Society and was that group's first vice president. Members of this group became the source of nursery stock, advice and information for the many orchards of macadamia nuts now producing in San Diego County. Although the society has not been successful in establishing great groves similar to those in Hawaii, they found varieties that produce in this area and have encouraged small groves that are commercially productive.

Although Tanner did not hybridize new varieties, he had a scientific approach to the selection of varieties that were best for our climate. Among the macadamias that he planted on his Rancho Santa Fe estate, he favored the Beaumont hybrid. The nuts were medium size, high in fat, with beautiful deep pink blossoms, attractive foliage and did well in our coastal climate. He met and admired Dr. Beaumont of the University of Hawaii, for whom this variety was named because of his work with the macadamia nuts.

Tanner made two trips to Hawaii to study the vast plantings of macadamia nuts and met many of the growers, among them James Stewart, the actor who planted around one thousand acres. (It was erroneously stated in CALIFORNIA GARDEN, April/May, 1972 issue that he was a consultant to Mr. Stewart in this planting.)

When Tanner turned to other subtropicals, he chose a sapote that had been introduced by other nurserymen. It had a local heritage, having been propagated from a local tree in an Encanto garden. He took note of its small seeds, tender skin, general hardiness and prolific crops. He renamed it the Sue Belle and began to push it. His genuine enthusiasm and horticultural appreciation (which made him a super-salesman) has made Sue Belle the leading sapote in San Diego County.

In his last ten years, Clifford Tanner began to appreciate the possibilities of fresh lychees. (Lychees were generally known only in the dried form and called lychee nuts.) They had been grown in El Cajon and some county gardens for years. He planted several trees on a terrace (which destroyed Dorothy's wild flower garden). They did well in this location. From those trees, he propagated others by making cuttings. He could never produce enough to satisfy the demand for this ornamental tree with its clusters of delicious fruit, which will grace any garden in a protected, frost free location. He learned that most subtropical fruits freeze well, and could always produce samples from his freezer.

His mango, now loaded with fruit, is a Manila seedling that took to the spot he chose and has produced for years.

The large yellow guava, like a small Gravenstein apple in size and color, produced prolifically. It also needs protection from frost. He recommended it for home gardens.

He also loved the flowering trees and planted them among his fruits. In the fall, his Australian Flame Tree glows down the road from the house.

Although Tanner was a horticultural businessman, he grew many flowers as a hobby. Mrs. Tanner usually started growing geraniums, orchids and others, but he would take over and expand until he had a dazzling show. The gallery around two sides of the house became a showcase of orchids, fuchsias, begonias and ferns—with other exotics to fill in. Dotted around in clumps are many rare succulents, lilies, ground covers and shrubs. He had a spell of concentrating on roses and was a devoted member of the American Rose Society.

Over the years, Mr. and Mrs. Tanner had put their individual stamp on the home. The big living room window looked out on a section of the cymbidiums on the gallery shelves, down the slope to a windbreak of eucalypti at the bottom of the canyon where coyotes, possums and skunks roam in primitive seclusion, except when they come to visit the house and scare the cats and kittens which were always around. Paintings by a much admired local artist, Maurice Braun, glow from the walls of the living room. Good antique furniture, oriental prints and objets d'art add a quiet elegance to everyday living.

Many will remember Tanner as they saw him at a reception given by the Orchid Society in the Conference Building in Balboa Park. Among the treats at this reception were some cakes decorated with blossoms of the epidendrum orchids. Many admired the flowers but discreetly removed them before eating the cake—not Clifford Tanner! He ate his cake, orchid and all and enjoyed it, saying, "They are delicious! What is better to eat than orchids?"

Also many thousands will remember him at the California Macadamia Society's display at the Fair (The Southern California Exposition) at Del Mar. Cheerfully and with great enthusiasm he answered questions and demonstrated a macadamia nut cracker. It is a pleasant memory to have of a man who loved life and had grasped many of the secrets of nature which he transformed into growth and enrichment of life for thousands.

IKEBANA AND I

MAURINE McCARTHY

MY LOVE AFFAIR with the beautiful Japanese art of flower arrangement—a case of love at first sight—began in Japan. Now, fifteen years later, its charm still holds me captive.

Before Ikebana and I met, patience had seemed to me to be a virtue of the few. Although I realized its importance, I had not tried to cultivate it. Even in my beginning days with Ikebana I was all for getting on with a project rather than spending so much time on just one arrangement. After all, I figured there were more important things to be done. Now, I earnestly declare that few things are more rewarding than taking the necessary time out to create living pictures starring God's beautiful messengers of love to man—flowers. For those who are oriented toward aesthetics, familiarity with Ikebana may prove to be a contribution of real value.

Previous to the advent of Ikebana in my life, if a bunch of flowers came my way, I would squeeze all of them into a vase—as if to leave out one would constitute an offense of omission. Yet, I was guilty of offense after offense of commission which might fittingly be called floral vulgarity. Through Ikebana, I have learned to appreciate the beauty of simplicity and to apply it to the various aspects of my life.

When artificial flowers from Hong Kong appeared on the market, I was tempted to use them, because they are amazingly faithful reproductions of the *bona fides*. "Just think," I said to myself, "if I use them I will never have to change water in containers or bother about replacing wilted flowers." Following a think-out about the idea, I became permanently disenchanted. I decided that, for me, fake flowers could never usurp the place of the real. In spite of it, mortal mind came up with the argument: "But, think of the money you would save if you used them." I had no trouble with that persuasion, because I know that many of the most attractive Ikebana arrangements call for only two or three flowers, and if one does not have a garden, filler-foliage may be picked up in fields, vacant lots, nurseries and so on—total cost? Very little.

The fact that each flower, branch and shrub must be of a certain length and placed in a certain position in the container with great care has been of disciplinary value to me, because I am in some respects a non-conformist. However, my individualistic tendencies have been compensated in the Ikebana form of art, because the choice is mine when it comes to the selection of containers, flowers and other material.

During my Ikebana sessions in class (Ohara School) or at home, I fraternize with the flowers to the extent that we are as friends. If I had the love-power which Luther Burbank possessed, they would likely nod to me as flowers in the field nodded to him when he passed. Mentally, I have torn down fences which I was taught to believe existed between me and the kingdoms of nature. In reality, no such divisions are possible, for all life is one.

Almost all types of flowers lend themselves to the grace of Ikebana arrangements. So, like our Japanese friends, we can change the styles to correspond with the seasons, or we can suit them to the decor of the rooms in our homes. We can also think of the flowers we use as visual lessons in life. My favorite flower is the water lily. It is beautiful, a symbol of purity and serves to remind me to say, "Get thee behind me" whenever the thought, "I can't do it," presents itself. If a water lily can struggle up through the mud and slime from which its bud began and become a thing of spotless beauty, I can also rise above my problems and become one of the "beautiful people".

I happen to be a mystic, and true to type I not only look at but see esoterically into the heart of things. Working closely with flowers has given me the opportunity to look through their outer beauty and see the spirit beauty shining through. If you will reach your heart into the heart of flowers, they will speak to you, too, in a wave of thought.

An Ikebana arrangement, I have found, is one of the finest tokens of interest and friendship one can give to someone in trouble, or on a special occasion. Anyone can lay money on a counter and buy flowers for a friend or loved one, but an Ikebana gift conveys "love you", "thinking of you", or "miss you" more eloquently and includes the personal touch which a flower shop bouquet lacks.

It is with our hands that we fashion our Ikebana creations. I have become aware of the fact that passing love to the flowers I am using, through those useful and very special instruments of expression, establishes rapport with them and helps to insure success in my undertakings. Mary Averill in her book, JAPANESE FLOWER ARRANGEMENT APPLIED TO WESTERN NEEDS, says, "The heart of man is also the soul of flowers." Therefore, when the heart of one and the soul of the other meet, a thing of beauty and joy must be the result.

Those who enjoy Ikebana are sure to discover a new perspective in interrelationships—"Friendship through flowers" as well as friendship with flowers.

* * * * *

HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT KINETIC ART

MARTHA H. ROSENBERG

IF YOU HAVE STROLLED through an cutdoor art show in the park, at one of the beach hotels, at an art museum, or the art exhibit at our Del Mar Fair, chances are that you have seen "Kinetic Art". It is also quite possible that you have not recognized it as kinetic art. Yet, the director of every forward thinking display of art will try to have at least one expression of kinetics. It, invariably, adds a new dimension to the exhibit and often becomes the center of interest. It always excites controversy and is never "run of the mill".

In simple layman's terms, and by dictionary definition, kinetic art is art that moves. The term may apply to architecture, ballet, sculpture, etc.—any form of art.

The piece in question may actually be turned by a motor; an air current may catch and twirl a dangling bit of light weight material; revolving or flashing lights may play on the art form giving the impression that it is moving. The form itself may have so many sweeping and flowing lines that one can really see it move—or at least it could never seem to be static. In other words, kinetics means either actual or implied movement.

This is a very bare, elementary explanation of kinetics—in the simplest of terms that I could manage. Some people react to it violently; some people are excited by it as they are by anything new; most people will insist it is not art. Everyone will have something to say about it.

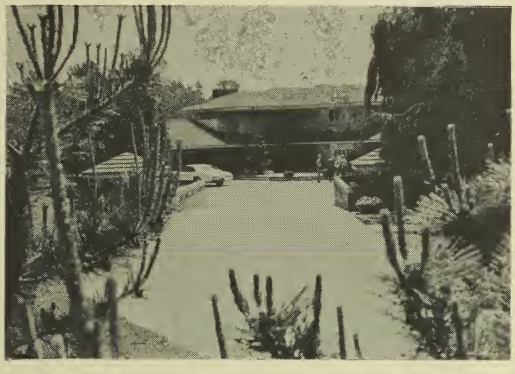
What I really meant to say in my original question was: Have you heard about kinetic art as applied to flower arranging? Imagine your arrangement suspended in space, swaying in the breeze. Can you see your arrangement revolving on a pedestal or standing in the midst of flashing colored lights—or maybe featuring black light? You may be relieved to know that it is not necessary for you to like it, but don't knock it till you have given it a good try. Flower arranging must keep pace with the other arts, or go stale. It is the new thinking and original ideas that evolve from such extreme forms that is really productive.

You can see kinetic arrangements at the state convention of the California Garden Clubs, Inc. in May. Take along a friend and an open mind, and participate in a new experience.

A kinetic arrangement, utilizing sprayed Dayglo (fluorescent) colors, "black light", rotating motion, bamboo sections split and shaped into lanterns, date palm flowers and live material consisting of sprengeri, displayed in a lighted niche. The background is in tones of grey, with a burst of "hot" pink for accent. The interplay of the angled lantern silhouettes and the dominant verticals of the lanterns create a dynamic upward movement. The point of interest of the arrangement is the grouping of palm flowers within each lantern, with the petals of the flowers sprayed "hot" pink—picking up the same color from the background—and their centers black to repeat the black of the lanterns. The stems of the flowers are brilliant Dayglo green. The softer green of the sprengeri repeats the color and provides a contrast of textures between live and dried material. The lanterns, mounted on black cylindrical bases, slowly rotate to give movement and complete the kinetic effect of the arrangement. (Bob Darby, photo)

One day each springtime season, the owners of a half dozen of the more outstanding private and commercial gardens of the Rancho Santa Fe area open their gardens for a public tour which is held for the benefit of the nearby Quail Botanic Gardens, which is a component of San Diego County's Public Park System. This year the tour date was Sunday, May 27. Eleanor Horr, who was this year's Tour Chairman, coordinated the preparation of an information-packed souvenir illustrated review of the event, which is presented here under the heading :

A Rancho Santa Fe Gardens Tour



'Brickwood', the home of Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Kelts, is set in a great expanse of rolling lawns. Black pines and coral trees help to blend the buildings into the landscape. The arbor walk to the guesthouse is partly planted in wisteria and partly in honeysuckle, possibly in deference to the adjacent street,'La Madreselva'(honeysuckle). The guest house as well as its furnishings and its surroundings are done in red, white, and blue— a combination of colors frequently used in flags, but rarely in home decor. In most settings, those colors would look harsh when used together, but in this particular case, expert design coordination has made them appear surprisingly compatible. View it and judge for yourself.

A large Japanese crane, in metal, serves as a stark accent piece. At its feet, the rough texture of the Korean grass matches that of the black pine at its side. All three, as foreground features, are brilliantly highlighted by the fact that the background of brickwork is dark and shaded. Alone, none of the four components in this scene would be particularly notable, but in combination they transform the front entrance to Brickwood into a wonderful setting.

Mrs. Walter Krafft, from inside her home, can look out at a back garden which -with the addition of harps and angels — would be a perfect scenario for paradise. Sunlight and shadows highlight the walkways, lawns, the garden benches, and the statuary. A nook with a fountain beckons the eye. Old moss-roses provoke nostalgia; so do the columbines, the forget-me-nots, the irises, and the seemingly endless flagstoned paths lined with moss-like baby tears. All this is just about the back yard. The front yard is equally expansive, but very different. View it yourself, and then try to compose your own rapturous description of it.

Mrs. Walter Krafft is a member of the American Iris Society, and this photograph of a portion of her garden is a reflection of her appreciation of the iris as a garden plant. She also uses irises in floral arrangements which she herself makes for her home. But neither inside nor outside do irises or any other particular plant overwhelm or dominate; there is a diversity of plant interest in all areas of the grounds, all in subtle good taste.

The "Valley Lane Farm", owned by Mrs. Carol Smith Shannon, occupies a spacious 60 acres of rich valley land. Most of the farm is utilized for breeding and training of horses, and for growing walnuts and oranges. A decorative accent is a man-made lake, part of which appears in the photograph at right, with the residence in the background. Visitors may enjoy watching some of the farm's 40 horses performing in the training ring, and they will admire the stables which— from the west— look like a modern motel rather than like barnyard buildings. Quite apparently, those horses are neither neglected nor deprived.

The Sago Palm, *Cycas revoluta*, is a dramatic accent plant which (despite its name) is not a palm. Neither is it a fern. Actually it is a very primitive cone-bearing plant of the order Cycad, related to the coniferous trees. This strikingly attractive specimen grows on the north porch of the Valley Lane Farm.

OTHER STOPS DURING THE TOUR :

The Rancho Verde Greenhouses are a very large and super-modern project where decorative potted plants and hanging basket plants are propagated and grown to commercial size under the latest scientific cultural procedures. This enterprise sells its product to wholesale distributors only; some of the plants being moved out from the greenhouses may be heading for the retail shelves of your local Safeway or FedMart store.

The Hastings Fuchsia Garden actually is in Solana Beach rather than Rancho Santa Fe. The garden is not large or pretentious, but it rather is intimate, and full of charm and color, with hundreds of fuchsia plants growing amidst huge old avocado trees. You will love it.

The Rancho Santa Fe Garden Club's patio is a well chosen spot to relax for a few minutes in a beautiful setting, to rest the feet, and to enjoy some cool refreshments. The Rancho Santa Fe Garden Club is a focal point from which emanates the sustained and successful effort to make the surrounding community ever more beautiful.

DOWNTOWN OASIS

CRAIG SILGJORD

PERHAPS YOU recently have had reason to be in the San Diego County Courthouse, or maybe just by chance happened to be walking in the vicinity of the Courthouse located on West Broadway in downtown San Diego. If so, you may have noticed the small area about the size of a quarter of a city block located in back of the Courthouse on "C" and Front Streets. After walking the concrete sidewalks of downtown, bringing it to your attention would not be a difficult task, because the odor and sight of greenery is something which is a rarity in today's metropolitan areas.

It's a refreshing sight indeed for city-sore eyes to behold our oasis in that desert of asphalt, brick, concrete and steel we call downtown San Diego. Don't take my word for it. Just stop by any warm, sunny day, and you too will likely see a scattering of bodies stretched out on the carpet-thick grass. They are there dreaming away cares and aching feet. From my sixth floor vantage point, I have often watched and envied the serenity they enjoy.

Sometimes the sound of children's voices can be heard in playful laughter below. It's merely another class of students coming to learn about the activities of the Courthouse. From the laughter, one can surmise that the most enjoyable part of their visit is now at hand——the wait on the lawn before boarding the school bus. Again, that little quarter of a block is put to good use. The students frolic and roll in the grass. Some just sit and talk; others sprawl out looking upwards to the sky. Soon the bus arrives and the students are off again to the stuffy confinement of a classroom. The grass is still green, maybe a little trampled down, but nonetheless there are soon bodies scattered over the greendom again, relaxing and enjoying the sun.

Although this plot of ground is not all that great an example of gardening, it is certainly an example of planning and durability. Judging from the number of weary souls who use our little "peoples' park", one would soon expect the grass to dry and the shrubs to be stripped bare of foliage, crippled with broken limbs. Far from it. The Courthouse maintenance crews seem to be on top of everything. Barely a day passes by without gardening activity of some type. It may be just the trash picker rummaging through the bushes for scraps of paper or the "barber" trotting back and forth with his monstrous mowing machine or the sprinkler man tending to his waterworks, but our park is under a constant watchful eye.

The "carpet" is a combination of bermuda and rye, two varieties of grass that appear to stand up well under the constant trampling, giving us an unending show of green through all seasons. Stationed in one corner are a group of palms peering down on the visitors as if guarding them from the creatures of steel whizzing past on the pavement outside. Other guards of hibiscus, juniper and flowering magnolia line "C" and Front Streets, enclosing the park, offering additional barriers from the street commotion. Bird of Paradise provides color to one area and a single tulip tree bares its fragrant beauty in another. There is however, a definite absence of blossoming plants in our park. Green is the theme, simplicity is the design and refreshing is the odor inspite of the lack of blossom.

From what I am told by members of the Courthouse staff who have been here longer than I, the park's very existence was threatened last year when major plans were being made for extension of the main building. The culmination of these plans and the eventual construction would have meant an end to our park. Somehow, and luckily for us, these plans were set by the wayside.

The "People's Park" at 'C' and Front Streets in downtown San Diego.

True, there may be other plots of greenery around the downtown area, but I'm sorta' partial to our little "peoples' park". Though I have not had an opportunity to partake of its serenity, I can certainly vouch for the joy it has brought to many others. Who can say when its temptation will be too great for me to resist? If you should happen by and see someone lying on the grass with his tie and coat tossed next to him, it could just be me or any number of weary day dreamers. Please, don't disturb us; just find yourself a place on the grass and start a dream of your own.

ADVICE TO LOVELORN GARDENERS

JOSEPHINE GRAY

THE GREATEST gardening difficulty to me is change. That is a paradox, for we all know that change is the very life of a garden. The high fragile notes of Spring are rung in with violets and tiny bulb flowers, with tarragon and mints making the first stir that lead to the warm mezzo voice of Summer. After we have had Canterbury Bells and Sweet William and have harvested thyme, marjoram and the heat loving basil, it will be time to notice that chrysanthemums are pointing the way to Autumn. When Winter brings berries and poinsettias and electrifies the air with the cobalt blue of Rosemary Santa Barbara, then all the changes have been rung on the seasons. These are the changes to which we look forward and for which we plan with love and hope.

These are not the changes which are the concern in my heart; I am thinking of the changes in body and spirit which are many times the despair of gardeners, forcing them to leave established and long loved garden plots. This heart-scald often happens at an age when a garden is the most necessary thing in life. I have been experimenting and making little plans to keep this from happening to me; I might call it advice to lovelorn gardeners.

First of all this is what you must do: On a beautiful day, take a firm grip on yourself and go out and survey your domain. No matter how small or how large it is there is something you can do without. I have a "lower forty" which was once flower beds and borders but now is a little meadow of self-sown linaria, scabiosa, summer chrysanthemums and coreopsis, each blooming in its season among the weeds and grasses. When in dry Summer and Fall it gets ugly, I look at it from afar. One hand shades my eyes, and the other gives it a flip of a wave, "See you next Spring." I go back to my potted pelargoniums under the pepper tree in the herb garden.

If you have a border that you fuss with Spring and Fall, put in shrubs that cost you little in labor and cause you much joy. They should be flowering, fragrant and beautiful when not in bloom. Breath of Heaven (*Diosma*) with its cloud of tiny pink or white blossoms and evergreen fragrant foliage is one of these. Another is *Jasmine polyanthum* which throws itself lavishly over fence or wall, its clusters of rosy buds breaking into scented stars. Geralton's Wax Plant gives graceful finely cut foliage all year, and in Spring it is covered with bright pink flowers that look as though they were cut from wax. A fence rose takes up a great deal of the space you don't want to bother with any more; Golden Showers or La Reine Victoria—that dear old fashioned little cabbage which is on all the old flower prints—are suggested. Their perfume is exquisite, and a single blossom is as bewitching as the center of a tussie-mussie. Under the roses you may have violets and sweet woodruff.

Then there are clumps of tubers, rhizomes and bulbs: daylilies, agapanthus, belladonna lily (Naked Lady), spuria irises, watsonia, Peruvian daffodil and acidanthera. The latter is new to me, and I can not resist the catalogue's description: "They have won their way to the amateur gardener's heart by the purity and beauty of their large tubular scented flowers whose segments form a kind of star." Planted in May, they bloom from August onward and are excellent for cutting. What more can you ask? A few miniature gladioli perhaps.

Scattered among the tubers, rhizomes and bulbs are the herbs—pest free, steadfast, fragrant, undemanding and patient. They have beautiful blossoms too. Take the lavenders; dentate, which you find in nurseries under French or Spanish, is an everbloomer. Its soft violet heads are faintly aromatic. English Lavender when not in bloom is a spikey gray asterisk in the border. Rue with its beautifully fashioned leaves gives its sulphur flowers almost all year round. There are so many thymes that I must pun this and say that I haven't time to tell of them. There must be a plant or two of marjoram also, with its knotted buds and velvet leaves.

And geraniums! Scented leafed and colored leafed, zonals of various colors and pelargoniums like butterflies, all for a great deal of love and little work will make your year more beautiful.

These are suggestions and choices. I would rather have any of them than green gravel. If I ever come to the place where I can not squat, stoop, or squint, I shall have things in boxes and pots, which would not be a terrible life at all. I need not feel bereft if I do not have snapdragons with their rust to plague me, or sweet peas which I must constantly pick to avoid guilt. Perhaps the change in the metabolism of the gardener can be equal to the change in metabolism of the garden "where, though all things differ, all agree."

A GERANIUM FOR EVERY GARDEN

PHIL BUSH, president
San Diego Geranium Society

WHAT A BEAUTIFUL time of year to talk about the plant that is closest to my heart, the much maligned and misunderstood geranium. Instead of discussing botanical names or history, it is more interesting to discuss the kinds of plants, their differences and why one might want them in his yard.

The ZONAL or common garden variety geranium is often thought to have only three drab colors: red, red-orange and pink. In truth, they are to be found in a wide range of colors: shimmering whites, clear pinks, oranges and firey reds, just to mention a few. The zonal can give a variety of color for much of the year when there may be no other flowers. There are singles, flowers with five petals, and doubles which have at least twice that many petals. The aroma of the zonal geranium is unique and may be offensive to some. However, many other types do not have the disagreeable odor.

Another type is the IVY geranium. These lovely plants with deep green ivy-shaped leaves make excellent ground cover. The ivy geraniums will also give an abundance of color through much of the year. The color range is white through pink and red into the red-purples. The ivy geranium flower strongly resembles that of the zonal and will be found with either single or double flowers. This plant is perfect for steep banks and ravines.

The most beautifully flowered of all of the geraniums is the one known as a MARTHA WASHINGTON– or REGAL, or PELARGONIUM. For the sake of brevity, it is easiest to call this geranium a regal.

The regal is an upright grower with a serrated leaf, generally a medium green in color. The flowers are the point of distinction of the regal, and will remind you of pansies or azaleas. Their colors are as wide in range as are their color patterns. There are pure whites, part whites, salmons, reds and reds so dark that they seem black. The regals have no scent.

If you want beautiful and/or unusual aromas, join me in my interest in the SCENTED LEAF geraniums. The scented group is so called because when the leaves are brushed or pressed between the fingers, they give off an aroma. Like the mockingbird with its song, scented varieties have aromas of other plants. They may have the scent of lemon, lime, orange, apple, coconut, or filbert. There are spice scents, flower scents and the scents of fruits such as pineapple, peach, or apricot. The flowers of scented varieties are not showy or particularly pretty as a rule. However, these plants are useful as well as ornamental. Some scented leaves are used in cooking, the making of perfume and sachets. The scented leaf shape and color vary widely, making this variety of geranium distinctive enough to attract your interest.

Yet another group of geraniums is the FANCY LEAF. These are easily identified by their multicolored leaves. Fancy leaves may be found within the zonal, ivy, scented leaf and miniature groups. Most are zonals. The leaves may come in two, three, or four colors and a variety of patterns. The flowers of this group are generally incidental and are an uninteresting red, but the leaves make this variety worthwhile and beautiful additions to all gardens.

The miniature, or dwarf, geraniums are little known, but they are not so rare. Miniatures are found in the zonal, ivy, regal and fancy leaf groups. For anyone with a limited space but a grand desire to grow geraniums, I highly recommend the miniatures because of their great beauty.

Left until last is a catch-all, grab-bag group called UNUSUALS. The unusuals can not be categorized by flower shape or color, leaf shape or color, or growing habits. There are carnation, cactus, poinsettia and phlox. The unusuals named are identified by petal shape, or color pattern of the petals. Also there is the arthritic geranium (my personal description of the truly-named gibbossum) recognized by its swollen joints.

There are succulent appearing geraniums and the tetragonum or cactus geraniums. These plants are the kind that only a mother could love until the plants bloom; then the succulent types are spectacular performers.

This article is not meant to teach anyone to grow geraniums, but at this point it should be noted that all geraniums do well not only in the ground, but also in pots. When starting cuttings, use small pots (two inch) and transplant into larger pots as they are needed. Clay or plastic pots may be used as the grower prefers. The miniatures should always be grown in pots not to exceed four inches. This will provide the miniature all the room it needs and give the collector room for more plants.

Geraniums are diversified enough to provide the selection from which any gardener can find just the right plants for flowers, foliage and beauty.

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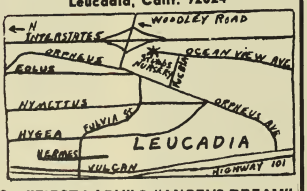

See "FIRST LADY" & "ANGEL'S DREAM".

Three New 'Carefrees' Are 'All-America'

"Carefree" — a welcome word for home gardeners — is also the name for a new race of geraniums of which three different colors have won All-America Selections awards: two silver medals and one bronze medal.

What makes these geraniums carefree? First, their freedom from the usual geranium diseases. Because they are grown from seeds rather than from cuttings, they do not inherit troubles from the parent plant.

Next, their strong and rapid growth. You never saw geraniums grow so fast! These characteristics are results of their hybrid parentage.

Third, their self-branching habit. As they grow they produce numerous side branches without any help. There is no need to pinch out tips in order to make plants grow bushy and compact.

Fourth, their bloom production. This after all, is the main reason for growing geraniums. The Carefrees will produce two or three flower heads for every one that grows on an ordinary geranium. Individual florets are as large as those of the finest geranium varieties; flower heads often are larger.

Fifth, their color range. There are salmon, scarlet, pink, and white in the range of Carefree geraniums. In addition, there's the prettiest picotee, white with pink petal edges.

Geraniums seeds are very fine. Scatter them over the surface of a flower pot filled with 1/3 sand, 1/3 granulated peat moss and 1/3 good garden soil, then sprinkle over them a thin layer of sand to cover. Finally, with the palm of your hand, firm the seeds gently into the soil.

Water after planting and as often as is needed by setting the planted pot in a container of water and allowing the moisture to permeate to the soil surface. Don't allow the soil to dry until after seeds have sprouted — from two to eight weeks from time of sowing.

The pot should be covered with a sheet of glass or popped into a plastic bag and set in a shady place in a 60 degree temperature until seeds sprout. After that, remove glass or plastic.

As soon as seedlings are large enough to handle, plant each in a two-inch pot in a mixture of half granulated peat moss and half good garden soil. Shift to larger pots as needed.

WINNERS OF THE 1973 ROSE SHOW

These are the winners of the San Diego Rose Society's 1973 show, "Moonlight and Roses", which was held in the Conference Building in Balboa Park. ABOVE left to right: King of the Show, Pink Parfait, grown by Frank M. Battad; a non-competitive arrangement by Mildred Middleton which uses rose blossoms; Queen of the Show, Summer Sunshine, grown by Mr. & Mrs. Carl F. Truby.

LEFT: Prince of the Show, Granada, grown by Byron Robinette.

BELOW: Princess of the Show, Paloma, (white) grown by Mrs. Brian Donn.

BETTY MACKINTOSH, photos

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"Ramona is the southernmost part of California where lilacs are grown successfully" I wrote in the January issue following an interview with Alice Barnes of Manzanita Ranch.

For all practical purposes that is true, but there are always exceptions. The presentation of a bouquet of handsome lavender lilacs the week of May 1, 1973 was so exceptional that it is a pleasure to eat words made palatable with the good smell of San Diego lilacs.

Margo Hubler brought them to my office in SOQ at the Naval Hospital. At my fervant request she wrote the following article while waiting for the doctor to see her husband.

SAN DIEGO LILACS

MARGO HUBLER

I ACQUIRED TWO experimental lilac bushes from the University of California. We planted one in the backyard and another in front of our house in Mission Valley.

Being from Maine, I thought that lilacs bloomed everywhere, and took it for granted that they would do well.

We fed them rabbit manure for ten years which was furnished daily by Harvey, our half-Californian half-Himalayan rabbit. He ate MacIntosh apples, Romaine lettuce, salt black and potato chips as well as pet-store pellets. Harvey did not care for carrots, nor did he nip away at our garden plants.

We are strong advocates of organic gardening, and further built up our soil by composting meat scraps that fell to the floor in the sawdust of a wholesale butcher shop. Apparently the lilacs enjoyed this protein-rich diet.

The bushes are now seventeen years old. The one in the front yard has a heavy trunk, large leaves and the flowers are a deeper lilac color than the other, but they are only faintly fragrant.

The bush in the backyard is five feet tall and has a beautifully rounded shape with a multitude of medium sized leaves. The flowers are fragrant and just perfect.

I have been told that lilacs flowering in San Diego is unusual, but my two are faithful and greet us with lots of blooms and beauty every year for Easter.

Unfortunately, the experimental numbers have been lost. However, there is a chance that the university would have a record of the experiment and possibly have stock. Anyway, this is a chance for all lilac-lovers to get renewed faith and perhaps some lilacs that will bloom in their gardens.

Mrs. Charles D. Wheelock
826 Via Palo Alto "Seascape"
Aptos, California 95003
March 1, 1973

Dear CALIFORNIA GARDEN Friends,

How very generous, prompt and considerate of you to send me the three back issues of your delightful magazine that my former address managers failed to hold or forward——I do thank you.

I would have especially hated to miss the Jan/Feb '73 issue which contains so much news and history of the Julian area.

About 1910 my brother, Donald, and I attended the two-room Julian School where we pupils played "Andy Over" over the little white building and all drank from a long handled dipper attached by a chain to a bucket of water on the front stoop. Mr. Escher was the very capable and dashing young principal, but I do not remember the name of the likeable young lady who taught with him.

I knew Frank Bailey, Edward Tillum, some of the Jacobs, Marks and Blanc children and my special chum was Hazel Potter, daughter of the postmaster.

My father, Malcolm McLeish, leased the land with the tailing pile at the Ranchita on the old Golden Chariot Drive on Banner Grade. So, we all spent that winter at the Julian Hotel, then owned and managed by the fine colored couple, Mr. and Mrs. Robinson. My father rented a donkey (a mischievous young one!) "Julie" for my brother and me to ride and play with and a fine, white horse for my mother. We covered the countryside. He had his own fine team of bays to work at the cyanide plant with our twenty-odd-year-old Canadian cousin John McLeish who helped with the managing of the very lucrative "plant". After that sojourn, we all went to Guadalajara, Mexico to spend the winter and spring at the Palace Hotel which was devastated in the Mexico rebellion the following year. (Visiting Mexico was a rather unusual thing to do in those days, but my father's mining interests afforded us many interesting places.)

Miss Elsie Merman (then in her twenties) and her father were also guests at the hotel. We kids hoped to work up a romance between her and our fine, handsome cousin, Johnnie. Due to her possessive and ever-present father and the shyness of our cousin, it did not quite work out. I contacted Elsie in San Diego years later when we were captains of rival rowing teams at the old Normal School.

So many happy memories of that wonderful area were refreshened by your issue that I wonder if a number of your readers could share them with me. The barrel of overflowing, cold spring water which stood beside the road half way down the long Banner Grade that was a looked-for treat to traveler and his horse. I think only three automobiles made it to Julian in the months that we were there. I also remember how (while being taken "for a spin" into the country by friends at the hotel) their monster ran over a squirrel, and I hoped to never ride in one again.

The whole village used to hike to a meadow just south of town (where some unfortunate cow or calf was bitten by a rattlesnake) and stand ankledeep in buttercups and mushrooms. An Indian was tomahawked by an enemy tribesman and laid upon the hard, bare wooden floor of an empty store on Main Street. We kids surreptiously peeked through the dirty window glass wondering why there was no one to help the unconscious man. His squaw stoically sat beside him, fanning his swarthy face with his old black hat. (Being an artist, these vivid pictures come back to me.)

Hazel Potter, Donald and I with the faithful Julie, to carry at least two of us at a time on her blanketed back, used to gather the huge, sticky pine cones from a nearby hill, then pound them on the hard-packed, dirt road in front of the hotel and post office to knock the delicious seeds out of them.

A closed (six passenger, I believe) stage was then the only means of transportation to San Diego. The driver was one of the "Meat Market Boys" named Jimmy. Jimmy was a gay, adventurous sort. On one of our trips he, learning that my attractive young mother (although slight in height and stature) was quite a horsewoman, he suddenly handed her the reins of the galloping (perhaps only trotting at the moment) horses. She was flattered and delighted. Of course, I remember a sensible, older woman inside the stage calling out: "Driver! Will you please take the reins!" which he promptly did.

Mr. Blanc was the minister of the little, white church where we all went on Sunday, and his oldest daughter was the "mother" to his rather large, motherless family. Everyone marvelled at her dedication and industry.

One of the Mark girls later played the organ in the big Cabrillo Theatre in San Diego, but I never met any of my Julian friends after that one year.

I can remember the tall lilac bush (weren't there several at that time?) in the hotel yard that contributed to the fame and beauty of the present gardens of Mr. and Mrs. Barnes of Pine Hills which is all so beautifully described in this particular issue of your magazine.

Years later, I spent the night at the old Pine Inn Lodge with friends. There were guest rooms in several of the full pines at that time. Those old monarchs disappeared, and we have never seen such huge pines in that part of the country since.

My close friend, Carrie Mitchell, sister of San Diego's "Dean of Painters" Alfred Mitchell (recently deceased), used to visit ranch friends around Julian, so their names are undoubtedly remembered. I visited the Museum some years ago, and have planned ever since to donate my large photographs of the 1910 Julian School with the pupils and two teachers—in which some of you may find yourselves).

I hope I have not bored someone with all of this, but it just may bring back happy memories or renewed contacts for some of your group. I so wish I had known of your organization during the more recent years that Admiral Wheelock and I lived in La Jolla, while he was Associate Director of Scripps Institute of Oceanography. You are undoubtedly an outstanding and delightful group to so professionally carry on so beautiful and worthwhile a project on a volunteer basis.

I am looking forward to enjoying your magazine and sharing it with others for many years to come.

Very sincerely yours.

Beatrice McLeish Wheelock

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BEGONIA SOCIETY

Thelma O'Reilly

Now is the time

to continue repotting.

to take cuttings for extra plants.

to continue a balanced feeding program.

to spray for pests and disease control—the cold, wet spring has created ideal conditions upon which snails, slugs and mildew thrive.

to transplant seedlings.

to watch the tubers and repot as soon as they reach a height of three or four inches—place in strong filtered light.

to repot your Reiger 'Elatior' begonias—use a coarse mix of 10% soil or leaf mold, 45% peat and 45% perlite or vermiculite—add one full teaspoon of 14—14—14 Osmocote to a six inch pot.

to give special attention to plants you intend to enter in fairs, shows and displays.

BONSAI SOCIETY

Maso Takanashi

Now is the time

to check water daily; morning hours are best.

to be sure soil is well drained.

to turn specimens regularly for even growth.

to check wires on plants so that they do not cut into the wire during growing season.

to harden your Japanese maple by placing in full sun—leaf tips will be less likely to burn in hot weather.

to avoid wetting maple foliage when watering. Water by putting pot in shallow pan of water.

to keep growing moss for decorating and dressing the soil in pots. (Add several weeks before shows for a natural look.)

BROMELIAD SOCIETY

Mary Birchell

Now is the time

to feed every two weeks, at ¼ strength, any good shade-plant type fertilizer—feed at the root area, not in the cup of the plant.

to keep snail bait around the base of plants—not in the cup.

to put plant in the brightest light it will take without burning. Softer leafed bromeliads need more protection from the sun than the tougher, hard leafed type.

to remove off-sets if about 2/3 the height of the mother plant and to repot separately.

to remove dead leaves and clean plants.

to keep walkways and areas around the plants moist to raise the humidity during hot weather.

CAMELLIA SOCIETY

Shala McNeil

Now is the time

to feed plants some iron if you have fed them twice with cottonseed meal. Use Vigoro liquid acid food with chelated iron and zinc—analysis 2—10—8.

to continue to spray for aphids and loopers.

to water lightly twice a week. Once a month flood the tubs to get rid of salts. Do not let dry out.

to be sure to feed with cottonseed meal when new growth is noted.

DAHLIA SOCIETY

Mildred Middleton

Now is the time

for regular care for dahlias, that means after the plant is growing—to have regular watering, spraying and feeding programs.

to feed with a low nitrogen fertilizer (4—10—10) either dry or liquid.

to spray weekly to control insects. Guard against leaf miners, thrips and aphids. Try a systemic. If spraying, use a weak solution on new foliage.

to pinch out center when two or three sets of leaves form.

EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY

George French

Now is the time

to check stems carefully and tie to prevent breakage.

to select new plants as blooms appear—can add new varieties to

your collection.

to feed with low nitrogen, such as 0–10–10.

to watch for aphids–do not use an oil spray on epis.

to enjoy your epis at their fullest beauty.

Do not move plants before blooms have developed.

FUCHSIA SOCIETY

Annabelle Stubbs

Now is the time

to continue pinching off tips to increase growth.

to weight and arrange branches symmetrically.

to turn baskets regularly, so they do not become one-sided.

to watch for pests, spray if necessary for white fly, inch-worms and aphids. Do not use oil spray.

to water only when needed. Do not over water.

to change to low nitrogen liquid fertilizer for super blooms. Be sure to establish a regular feeding program.

to acquire new varieties of plants as the nurseries should have plenty of new stock.

IRIS SOCIETY

Art Day

Now is the time

to prepare new beds for tall bearded irises. Select a sunny location with good drainage. Work in steer, mulch and general garden fertilizer. Water well. Work beds until planting time in July.

to cut off dead stalks as close to the ground as possible.

to watch for ear-wigs; they will damage rhizomes and can spread rot.

to mark all clumps over two years old–they will need replanting in July.

to keep plants watered while blooming.

to feed spurias with low nitrogen organic fertilizer.

to feed Japanese irises with camellia food and give plenty of water until their bloom is over.

ORCHID SOCIETY

Lois Donahue

Now is the time

to do lots of repotting. It is really the deadline for cymbidiums.

to move dendrobium phalenopsis to a larger pot after it has stopped blooming, if it has out grown its quarters. Pot in fresh fir bark when new growth is starting. Small seedlings will benefit from a larger pot and new mix.

to resume high nitrogen feeding for plants that are through blooming. They must be nourished now to produce bloom spikes this fall. Do not be afraid to vary the food–liquid or granular–but a good balance is 30–10–10.

to continue light but frequent feeding for the green-leafed cypripediums–fish emulsion every other meal; keep them moist.

to maintain the same efforts with indoor plants with special attention to humidity.

to continue frequent light feedings for cattleyas.

to watch for snails, slugs and millipedes.

to increase light and heat requirements for cymbidiums; lower same for cypripediums.

to make sure of good air circulation.

ORGANIC GARDENING

Chester Brooks

Now is the time

to MULCH. Many seeds are in and well on the way to producing good organic vegetables, if they are not already producing. Mulch to conserve the moisture the rains have given. Mulch also helps to keep the weeds out.

Mulch with compost, soaked newspapers, or corrigated cardboard. These work well and are an added benefit–the worms love them. Old hay, straw, or leaves also work very well. Nearly anything organic will serve as mulch and give multiple benefits. Mulch cleans your yard, builds the soil, protects the plants and saves you a lot of work.

to watch for harmful mulching materials. Leaves for eucalyptus contain tannic acid; pine needles, turpentine; pepper tree, a mixture of both. Commercial mulches should be used with caution since they often contain acid or other harmful ingredients. Depending on what your plants need.

ROSE SOCIETY

Dee Thorson

Now is the time

to apply a light mulch of humus making material to rose beds.

to give another feeding of dry organic fertilizer, then use liquid food every two weeks during the rapid growing season.

to watch for rust–remove and destroy all infected leaves to prevent spores from spreading to good foliage.

to continue checking for mites, thrips and worms (for easy identification, read "Anyone can Grow Roses" by Cynthia Westcott).

to take soft wood cuttings.

to try your hand at bud grafting roses and at hybridizing.

for beginners to read A.R.S. 1941 Annual for information.

Beautify Those Shady Areas

One of the most often-asked questions among home gardeners is: "What can I grow in the shade?"

Most annual flowers grown from seed do prefer full sun, but there is a small group which will tolerate light shade, and a smaller group which even prefers shade.

Coleus, foxgloves, nicotiana, French marigolds, pansies, violas, vinca, pentunias and ageratum all will tolerate light shade, but by far the best two kinds for shaded areas are the small-flowered fibrous-rooted begonias and impatiens.

Should you choose the first of these two — the begonia — it is best to grow the hybrids. These have larger flowers, sturdier plants, and a greater tolerance for shady conditions. The seed is tiny, and a packet will grow hundreds of plants.

Seed is best sown indoors as early in the spring as possible so that good-size plants can be transplanted to the garden after danger of frost. The bright pink, red and white blooms soon appear and continue all summer right into fall.

Before frost hits them, they can be transferred to a pot to continue blooming indoors during winter months. There are both single-flowered and double-flowered forms.

Impatiens have been improved tremendously by hybridizers in recent years. Modern varieties are now much more free-flowering, and more compact in their growth habit, especially the hybrids.

Best of the hybrids are the dwarf Elfin series, and the semi-dwarf Imp series. Both make excellent bedding plants, and come in a good range of colors including white, pink and red.

Seed is best started indoors early in the spring so that good size plants are ready for transplanting to the garden after danger of frost. They will bloom all summer right into fall.

Like begonias, Impatiens make excellent pot plants, Before they are killed off by frost, root them in a jar of water, and transfer them to a pot for blooms indoors all through the winter.

Need To Be with Nature May Be Most Natural

Are human beings "genetically programmed" to require surroundings of warm, humid air; green growing plants; and the presence of warm-blooded animals in order to lead full and satisfying lives? Many authorities in the anthropological, sociological, and medical sciences answer the question with an emphatic "*yes*." Research is now underway to test the widely-held theory.

The American Association of Nurserymen, the national organization of nursery growers, garden center and landscape firsm, is supporting the study through it's non-profit wing, The Horticultural Research Institute. The project is being conducted under the direction of Dr. Hugh Iltis, taxonomist at the University of Wisconsin.

The premise being studied, according to the AAN, is that man, the animal, evolved in nature among plants, shrubs and trees, flowers and fruits, in a seasonal climate in which the living environment was an integral part of his most basic being and functioning. In today's surroundings of asphalt and concrete and glass and machinery, civilized man requires those ancient gifts of nature, not as luxuries, but as absolute needs.

"It is not simply a question of beauty and aesthetics," the AAN says, "but a question of survival. All the evidence gathered so far points to the fact that we cannot continue to live in conflict with nature. Our homes must be planned to expand into 'outdoor rooms' which move family activities outside. Our cities must design open spaces where living trees and plants participate in the health of the area. Businesses and industries must contribute to their communities with effective landscaping."

Planned documentation of these findings will include reports on folk lore and literature from the past, and continue through current medical, psychological and sociological works and research. The American Association of Nurserymen expects to publish the results of the study later this year.

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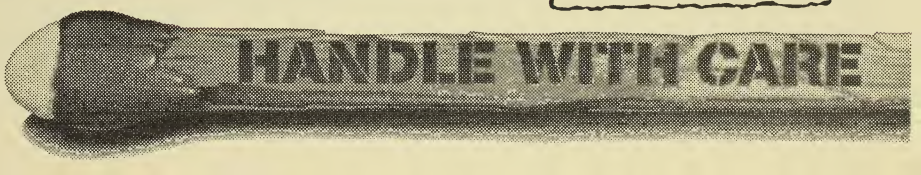

IRIS WINNERS OF 1973

San Diego's 1973 Spring Iris Show was one of those glorious events which served to finally convince everyone that the city's new Casa Del Prado in Balboa Park, where the beautiful show was staged, actually is just as useful as it is handsome. With hundreds of spectacular iris blossoms as decorations, the classic patio and the functional exhibit hall of the new building became so attractive that out-of-town visitors decided that their own cities should copy the plans. Betty Mackintosh memorialized the event with the iris photos which appear on this page: top left is WHISPERING GLADE, judged "Queen of the Show", entered by Pat Roberts, of El Cajon. Top right is RED CLOVER, best spuria iris of the show, entered by Jim LaMaster, of Del Mar. Lower left is "Sailing On", the best artistic arrangement of the show, entered by Ann Bowen, of La Jolla. Lower center: a Pacific Coast iris entered by Lois Weaver, of Lakeside. Lower right: an arrangement by Hazel Carson, of San Diego.

LEPTOSPERMUM

Dr. G. W. BREMNER, D.D.S.

L. laevigatum

L. s. 'Pompon'

LEPTOSPERMUM (Greek=slender seed). There are twenty-five species of this plant, mostly from Australia with a few from New Zealand and the Malay Archipelago. They belong to the family *Myrtaceae*. The name Tea Tree is commonly applied, because Captain Cook in the 19th Century used the leaves to brew a tea rich in Vitamin C which prevented scurvy in his crew. (Either my recipe is off or *Camellia sinensis* is more to my taste.)

In cultivation, leptospermae are upright evergreen shrubs densely covered with small heath-like foliage and with flowers of one half to three fourths of an inch in diameter in colors of white, pink and carmine. They stand drought well, but need well drained soil, full sun and slightly acid soil. Cuttings may be rooted from well ripened wood in fall, or from young growth in summer. Set the four inch cutting firmly in sandy peat and cover with a glass jar for a few weeks until rooted. This method of starting is recommended to those with green thumbs and whose friends have a variety of leptospermum that is unavailable at nurseries. Purchasing well started plants is the easiest and most surefire method of getting a plant. They are rather rapid growing to maturity and are long lived, and are interesting at all stages of growth. Individual florets and stems dry well in silica to be used in pictures and dried arrangements.

L. laevigatum is a twenty to thirty foot shrub used by the thousands at Golden Gate Park in San Francisco to tame the sand. As specimen plants in happy situations, they develop large handsome twisted trunks and interesting branching, some hanging down in a weeping effect. They can be used as screens when planted close together—clip or let them do their own thing. Flowers appear in spring in great profusion.

The single white species, *L. scoparium*, is of no particular interest in the United States, but has many useful varieties varying in height from ground covers of eight to twelve inches tall to shrubs of ten to twelve feet tall. The most common in the San Diego area is RUBY GLOW. Grown well it is a very compact shrub to about eight feet high and a spread of nearly the same. The foliage is such a dark green it looks almost black from a distance except in winter and spring when it is literally covered with double, deep red three quarters of an inch flowers. Bloom season starts in December and continues into April with individual florets like miniature roses.

KEATLEYI is one of the older varieties. It is also the rangiest, giving it an interesting trunk structure in later years. The single pink flowers are large for leptospermae, sometimes being one inch in diameter. It blooms in spring and sometimes again in summer.

POMPON is a very nice double pink, and SNOW FLURRY is a good double white. Both bloom a little later than RUBY GLOW.

SNOW WHITE is a low-growing white (two to four feet) blooming about the same time as RUBY GLOW. HORIZONTALIS and NANA may both be used as ground covers, but we in southern California have better plants for this purpose. However, if you want to try something different, have at it. Specimens may be a bit difficult to obtain. All colors, but not all varieties, are available locally in the San Diego area.

L. rotundifolium is a more rounded bush with roundish grey leaves and larger flowers of pink-toward-lavender. Rare in the U. S., the only specimen the author knows of is in a commercial garden north of Escondido. It blooms later than *L. scoparium.*

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